

## **Vehicle Registration Amnesty Program Questions and Answers**

### **1. How long will the Amnesty Program be in operation?**

This program will run through June 30, 2012.

### **2. What is a Specially Constructed Vehicle?**

As defined in Section 580 of the California Vehicle Code, a Specially Constructed Vehicle "is a vehicle which is built for private use, not for resale, and is not constructed by a licensed manufacturer or remanufacturer."

A Specially Constructed Vehicle may be built from any of the following:

1. a kit;
2. new or used parts;
3. a combination of new and used parts; or
4. a dismantled vehicle which, when reconstructed, does not resemble the original make.

A vehicle that has been repaired or restored to its original design by replacing parts does not qualify as a Specially Constructed Vehicle under Section 580. For example, a Volkswagen "Beetle" with modified fenders, engine compartment lid, and front end, is not considered a Specially Constructed Vehicle because it is still recognizable as a Volkswagen.

### **3. How do I apply for registration amnesty?**

You must apply for amnesty with the DMV. To find a DMV field office near you, visit the DMV Web site at [http://apps.dmv.ca.gov/fo/offices/toc\\_fo.htm](http://apps.dmv.ca.gov/fo/offices/toc_fo.htm).

### **4. What must I do to correctly register a vehicle under the Amnesty Program?**

A vehicle owner must first apply for and submit all required information to DMV, including payment of applicable registration fees. Then, the vehicle must be inspected at a state Referee station and obtain a Smog Check certificate of compliance.

### **5. What is BAR's role in the Amnesty Program?**

In accordance with Vehicle Code section 9565 and Health and Safety Code section 4750.1, the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) provides emissions inspection services for Specially Constructed Vehicles eligible for the Amnesty Program. The Smog Check inspection must be performed at one of BAR's Referee stations.

### **6. Where can I get a Smog Check inspection for a vehicle under the Amnesty Program?**

Only Smog Check Referee stations are authorized to perform inspections on Specially Constructed Vehicles under the Amnesty Program. There are over 30 Referee stations located throughout the state. To schedule an appointment, call the Referee Scheduling Center at (800) 622-7733.

### **7. What are the Smog Check requirements under the Amnesty Program?**

Vehicles for which an application has been submitted to DMV for the Amnesty Program are only subject to a tailpipe emissions test. The vehicle will not be subject to a visual or functional test of required emission control systems. However, it is important to remember that Vehicle Code section 27156 still applies. That law requires vehicles operated on California roadways to be in compliance with all emission control system requirements applicable to the vehicle.

As mandated by AB 2461, tailpipe emission standards for the vehicle are to be based on the year in which the application for amnesty was submitted to DMV. This means a vehicle inspected under the Amnesty Program must meet the tailpipe emissions standards established in BAR regulations.

Amnesty vehicles requiring an Acceleration Simulation Mode (ASM) test must meet the emission standards established for model-year 2004 and newer passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks. A complete set of ASM emissions standards for all model-year vehicles can be found on BAR's Web site at:

[http://www.bar.ca.gov/80\\_BARResources/02\\_SmogCheck/Engineering/ASM\\_Ave\\_Ph43.pdf](http://www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/02_SmogCheck/Engineering/ASM_Ave_Ph43.pdf); and  
[http://www.bar.ca.gov/80\\_BARResources/02\\_SmogCheck/Engineering/ASM\\_Ph51.pdf](http://www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/02_SmogCheck/Engineering/ASM_Ph51.pdf).

Amnesty vehicles requiring a Two-Speed Idle (TSI) test must meet the emission standards for model-year 1993 and newer vehicles, provided the vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) under 8,501 pounds. A complete set of TSI emissions standards for all model-year vehicles can be found on BAR's Web site at:

[http://www.bar.ca.gov/80\\_BARResources/ftp/pdfdocs/TSI\\_Cutpoints\\_table-Jan\\_2007.pdf](http://www.bar.ca.gov/80_BARResources/ftp/pdfdocs/TSI_Cutpoints_table-Jan_2007.pdf).

**8. What happens after I complete the Smog Check?**

After the vehicle receives and passes the Referee inspection, a Smog Check Certificate of Compliance will be electronically transmitted to DMV to allow the vehicle owner to complete the registration process.

**9. Will the vehicle be required to have Smog Check inspections performed in the future?**

Yes, a Smog Check inspection is required every other year as part of registration and upon change of ownership. An exemption from the Smog Check Program is available for a limited number of eligible Specially Constructed Vehicles (see Q&A # 13).

**10. Where must I get future Smog Check inspections performed for an amnesty registered vehicle?**

An amnesty vehicle must have all future inspections performed at a state Referee station. To schedule an appointment, call the Referee Scheduling Center at (800) 622-7733.

**11. If I own a Specially Constructed Vehicle that currently has a Certificate of Sequence, will that certificate remain valid and permanently assigned to the vehicle when I apply for the Amnesty Program?**

No. This is based on program eligibility requirements provided by DMV. For more information about the Amnesty Program, visit the DMV Web site at [http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg\\_amnesty.htm](http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg_amnesty.htm).

**12. If I apply for and receive registration amnesty for a vehicle, can I still apply for a Certificate of Sequence?**

Yes. This is based on program eligibility requirements provided by DMV. For more information about the Amnesty Program, visit the DMV Web site at [http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg\\_amnesty.htm](http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg_amnesty.htm).

**13. What is a Certificate of Sequence?**

SB 100 (Johannessen, Chapter 871, Statutes of 2001) allows up to 500 Specially Constructed Vehicles each year to apply for a permanent exemption from the Smog Check Program. A Certificate of Sequence is issued to the owner of a vehicle that meets the eligibility requirements. For more information about obtaining a Certificate of Sequence for a Specially Constructed Vehicle, visit the DMV Web site at <http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/spcns.htm>.

**14. Where can I get more information about the Amnesty Program?**

For more information, please visit the DMV Web site at [http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg\\_amnesty.htm](http://dmv.ca.gov/vr/reg_amnesty.htm).